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No. 1731

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

MAURITIUS, 1934

*(For Report for 1932 see No. 1627 (Price 2s. 6d.)
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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between 19° 50' and 20° 35' S. latitude and between 57° 18' and 57° 48' E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about 4 square miles.

The Dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,111 on 31st December, 1934. The estimated population of the lesser Dependencies on that date was 1,346.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island, tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of the rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin uncontrolled by any tribal or political system proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and, when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artisan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus smithi* was discovered in the sugar canes and more than 300 millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The situation became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. As a result it has been possible to balance the budgets for subsequent years.

The year 1934 has been a very disappointing one from the economic point of view. Owing to a severe drought which prevailed during the latter part of the year 1933 and the beginning of 1934, the sugar crop was reduced by over 20 per cent. below its normal figure, and this reduction combined with the very low price realized for sugar caused a serious deficit in the main source of income of the Colony and resulted in an important reduction of the money available for financing the next crop.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the

capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1934, was 9,984. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter :—

- (1) has attained the age of 21 years ;
- (2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights ;
- (3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization ;
- (4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications :—
 - (a) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300 ;
 - (b) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month ;
 - (c) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000 ;
 - (d) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications ;
 - (e) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50 ; and
 - (f) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called “ *Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis* ” and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities by the “ *Assemblée Coloniale*.” These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the “ *Assemblée Coloniale* ”, on

21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the “Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis” and were denominated the “Conseil des Notables”. The “Conseil des Notables” was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the “Conseil des Communes” and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge “La Triple Esperance” from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into

(1) the General Population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans, and people of African, Chinese and mixed origin, and

(2) the Indian Population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the Island, exclusive of the Dependencies, on 31st December, 1934, was 393,733, distributed as under :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
General Population ...	62,682	65,622	128,304
Indian Population ...	137,027	128,402	265,429

The estimated population of Rodrigues on 31st December, 1934, was 9,111, and that of the minor Dependencies, 1,346.

The total estimated population of Mauritius and its Dependencies was 404,190, showing an increase of 3,183 compared with the figure of 1933.

The geographical distribution of the population of the Colony exclusive of the Dependencies is shown in the following table :—

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Area in Square Miles.</i>	<i>Census Population, 26th April, 1931.</i>			<i>Population on 31st December, 1934.</i>		
		<i>General population.</i>	<i>Indian population.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>General population.</i>	<i>Indian population.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Port Louis...	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	30,645	24,231	54,876
Pamplemousses ...	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,618	28,794	35,412
Riviere du Rempart ...	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,706	25,634	31,340
Flacq ...	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,626	40,941	51,567
Grand Port ...	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,663	35,041	47,704
Savanne ...	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,687	23,530	30,217
Plaines Wilhems ...	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	44,275	55,344	99,619
Moka ...	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,718	23,804	29,522
Black River ...	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,366	8,110	13,476
TOTAL ...	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	128,304	265,429	393,733

The return to normal proportion of the birth and death rates noticed in the year 1933 was maintained during the year 1934. The figures for births and deaths for the last three years were :—

BIRTHS.

	<i>Number of births.</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 of population.</i>		
	1932.	1933.	1934.	1932.	1933.	1934.
General Population ...	4,022	4,570	4,609	32·1	36·3	36·1
Indian Population ...	6,244	8,909	8,907	23·5	33·9	33·7
Whole Population ...	10,266	13,479	13,516	26·2	34·7	34·5

STILL-BIRTHS.

	<i>Number of still-births.</i>			<i>Rate per 100 live births.</i>		
	1932.	1933.	1934.	1932.	1933.	1934.
General Population ...	271	267	282	67·3	58·4	61·2
Indian Population ...	724	978	1,025	112·7	109·7	115·1
Whole Population ...	995	1,245	1,307	96·9	92·3	96·7

DEATHS.

	<i>Number of deaths.</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 of population.</i>		
	1932.	1933.	1934.	1932.	1933.	1934.
General Population ...	3,636	3,102	2,987	29·0	24·6	23·3
Indian Population ...	9,212	7,513	7,082	34·6	28·6	26·8
Whole Population ...	12,848	10,615	10,069	32·8	27·3	25·7

The death-rates for Port Louis were 33·6, 28·1 and 25·9 respectively for the years 1932, 1933 and 1934. The highest death-rate for 1934 is shown in the District of Savanne—30·6 per thousand : and the lowest in Plaines Wilhems—21·2 per thousand.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,754 against 1,773 in 1933. The infantile mortality rate was 129·7 per thousand live births registered during the year, as compared with 131·5 in 1933.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,767 as compared with 1,521 in 1933. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 9·0 against 7·9 in 1933.

The excess of departures over arrivals was 411.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-95 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The Headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the Clerical and Accounting staffs of the Correspondence, Financial and Storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the District which is the political unit as well. Every District with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River District are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural Districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the District hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the District. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dispensers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The District dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

(i) General hospitals, namely, Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 684 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and

(ii) District hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

From the sanitary point of view the two chief problems are hookworm disease and malaria. Of the two, hookworm disease though less spectacular, is the more dangerous and insidious. Invasion of the body by hookworms does not at first produce actual disease, and if the infection is not a heavy one, the patient may scarcely be conscious of being ill at all. But he is more susceptible to fatigue, he cannot put in an adequate day's work, and he feels vaguely out of sorts. Such a patient is really more dangerous than one who suffers from the disease in clinically recognizable form, because the lightly infected patient can move about and spread his infection whereas the patient who is definitely ill remains at home and limits the area of infection. Formerly it was thought that hookworm disease in the Colony was being maintained by the practice of using human dejecta as fertilizer in the cane fields. This was stopped some ten years ago and it is now probable that the situation has changed from that of a large scale public health problem to a domestic one. Though most habitations in the Colony have latrines the population have still to realize the importance of

using them rather than a secluded piece of open ground. It is the habit of regularly resorting to the same place for defecation which is now producing the extensive infection still seen at the rural dispensaries.

Malaria has been endemic in the Colony since its introduction in 1865. For the first few years after its introduction the disease spread steadily all over the Island, and there was no district in the Colony which escaped the invasion. As time went on, and the efforts of Government began to be effective, the territorial distribution of the disease changed. At the present day its distribution is largely determined by altitude. The disease is endemic in the coastal lowlands. Above the 600 feet level the disease is generally seasonal, endemicity being restricted to a relatively small number of places. The efforts of the Medical and Health Department are at present directed to the maintenance of the salubrity of the central plateau by anti-mosquito measures of different kinds, and to diminishing the severity of the attacks of the disease in the coastal lowlands by making as widely available as possible the specific remedies for the disease.

In spite of the disastrous effect of the drought on the sugar crop, the health of the population generally during 1934 has been good. It is fortunate that with the fall in the price of sugar, a fall has taken place in the cost of the Colony's staple foodstuff, rice, so that acute destitution has been avoided. This factor, and the absence of epidemic disease, has resulted in the general state of the people's health being much better than the actual financial condition of the Colony would lead one to suppose.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (a) housing on estates, (b) housing in rural areas not estates, and (c) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use

the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. It is in the labouring class of the population that one can very often see racial difference in the choice of building materials. The negro will build an untidy-looking shack of old timber, scrap pieces of wood, petrol cases, and petrol tins hammered out flat, whereas the Indian will construct a very neat hut of wattle and clay or cow dung, on a stone plinth, furnished with a small verandah, and roofed with a compact thatch. The amenities of life are few. There is seldom water laid on to the premises. Unless the occupier has dug a well, he generally has to carry his water from the nearest standpipe which may be some hundreds of yards away.

In the towns conditions are, as a rule, unsatisfactory. The chief features about the town housing are overcrowding and overbuilding; overcrowding is caused by poverty and overbuilding arises as a necessary consequence of overcrowding. Too many families of the labouring classes live in one room. Fortunately, children are seldom confined to the house on account of inclement weather, and they can pass most of their time in the open air. As a result, rickets is very uncommon, as are other consequences of overcrowding in places where the climatic conditions are more severe either on account of excessive cold or excessive light and heat.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

The year 1934 was by no means a favourable one for the sugar industry of Mauritius as far as atmospheric conditions were concerned. Temperature was in defect throughout the growing season and drought conditions prevailed from November, 1933, to the end of April, 1934. On 28th and 29th January, a moderate cyclone passed fairly close to the Island: no serious damage was done, but practically all the rainfall received in January was associated with the passage of that disturbance. Such marked deficiencies on the part of vital factors at a critical period in the growth of the cane resulted in a disappointing crop.

The Sugar Industry.

The discomfiture of a short crop was further accentuated by market conditions which deteriorated during the year. The average net price for the 1933 crop was Rs.6.061 per 50 kilos, including the extra Colonial preference. For 1934, the average net price realized at the end of the year approximated to Rs.6 per 50 kilos.

The total production for 1934 was only 178·86 thousand tons as against 261·46 for the preceding year. The shortage was especially pronounced in the northern districts where the deficit was the

largest since 1902. The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years :—

Unit = One thousand metric tons.

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>1934.</i>	<i>1933.</i>	<i>1932.</i>	<i>1931.</i>	<i>1930.</i>	<i>1929.</i>	<i>1928.</i>
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart.	30·13	57·77	62·73	41·81	43·00	54·68	59·55
Flacq... ..	30·87	41·37	35·97	27·91	37·81	38·91	41·17
Moka	29·30	40·08	34·12	20·83	32·10	35·97	34·76
Plaines Wilhems ...	11·54	18·22	17·05	11·64	14·62	15·66	16·40
Black River	5·99	8·88	9·06	6·29	9·81	9·22	9·72
Grand Port	38·37	50·66	46·66	27·01	37·09	36·41	41·41
Savanne	32·66	44·48	41·63	28·52	46·53	47·18	50·42
Total	178·86	261·46	247·22	164·01	220·96	238·03	253·43

Grades of sugar.—The proportion of raws was 78·76 per cent. of the total production, vesous (plantation white) were 20·56 per cent., while low sugars approximated to 0·68 per cent. The change brought about by the introduction of the new English tariff in 1928 is well illustrated in the following table :—

GRADES OF SUGAR, 1925-1934.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Vesous.</i> <i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Raws.</i> <i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Lows.</i> <i>Per cent.</i>
1925	98·21	—	1·79
1926	98·10	—	1·90
1927	98·63	—	1·37
1928	71·80	27·30	0·90
1929	23·90	75·20	0·90
1930	16·80	82·50	0·70
1931	16·20	83·10	0·70
1932	12·10	87·50	0·40
1933	11·80	87·70	0·50
1934	20·56	78·76	0·68

Area under sugar-cane.—At the beginning of 1934 the area under cane was estimated at 138,116 acres or an increase of 4,249 acres on the corresponding figure for 1933.

Estates with factory cultivated 59,227 acres; estates without factory, 38,459 acres; giving a total estate cultivation of 97,686 acres, or 3,449 above the corresponding figure for last year. The balance was made up by peasant planters, mostly Indian.

Disposal of the 1933-34 sugars.—The total quantity of sugar exported at the end of the 1933-34 export year (31st July, 1934) was 250,829 metric tons distributed as follows :—

	<i>Tons (metric).</i>
Great Britain	250,134
India	2
Hong Kong	457
Other places	236
	250,829

The exportation for 1934-35 up to 31st December, 1934, was as follows :—

						<i>Tons (metric).</i>
Great Britain	...	...	...	...	...	53,498
Canada	...	...	...	...	...	6,401
Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	681
Other places	...	...	...	...	...	148
						60,728

The local consumption of sugar for 1933-34 was 10,381 metric tons, as against 9,111 for 1932-33.

Labour conditions.—Some labour difficulties were experienced in certain districts in connexion with the harvesting of the crop. During the year, Government appointed a committee to gauge the extent of unemployment in Mauritius. The committee found that there was no real unemployment in so far as unskilled able-bodied labourers were concerned; on the other hand, skilled artisans were often without work and measures were recommended to remedy the situation.

Sugar machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.397,700 was imported during the year as against Rs.594,719 last year; tractor parts valued at Rs.972, and ploughs valued at Rs.61 were imported, as against Rs.1,518 and Rs.1,969 respectively last year. In 1934, tramway material to the value of Rs.280,557 was imported, as against Rs.287,371 in 1933.

Fertilizers.—The importation of fertilizers totalled 14,970,515 kilos valued at Rs.1,807,097, as compared with 20,405,353 kilos valued at Rs.2,328,299 last year.

Insect pests and cane diseases.—The premier cane pest of the Island—*Phytalus smithi*, Arrow—appears to be steadily diminishing in a number of areas. On the other hand, it has increased in some districts. Mr. W. F. Jepson, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., who is employed by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund to make a special study of the insect, completed a year's useful work. In pursuance of his policy of introducing further parasites to deal with *Phytalus*, Mr. Jepson has been requested by the Sugar Industry Reserve Fund to visit Java, the Malay States, the Philippines, and possibly some other countries. Several further promising parasites have been introduced from Madagascar.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—There has been inordinate activity of mosaic disease on tobacco in certain parts of the Island where serious loss has been caused.

Some temporary difficulties in relation to the sale of leaf to local manufacturers were experienced during the year.

In 1934, the acreage under tobacco approximated to 982 acres, as against 2,081 in 1933. The leaf purchased by the warehouse in 1934 amounted to 468,881 kilos, as compared with 514,014 kilos in 1933. This gives an average yield per acre of 470 kilos as against 247 last year. The monetary value of purchases by the warehouse was Rs.541,403 in 1934 and Rs.681,604 in 1933.

Export is receiving full attention. Some seven tons of superior flue-cured leaf were sent to test the London market. A small shipment of air-cured leaf was forwarded likewise.

Aloe fibre.—Market conditions were slightly better during the year and, as a result, exportation was perceptibly higher than during the two previous years. The total exported in 1934 was 670 metric tons, as against 422 in 1930 and 417 in 1932.

Owing to the slump in the jute bag market, the Mauritius Spinning and Weaving Company found themselves in difficulties as regards the marketing of the local fibre bag; in consequence, a provisional closing down of the factory took place in December.

Pineapple industry.—No progress is in evidence in relation to this industry. There has been no extension in the area under Smooth Cayenne and consequently the canning factory has not been in a position to work on full load. The manufacture during the year totalled 2,443 cases of pineapple preserves of a value of Rs.16,550, as against 5,281 cases of a value of Rs.31,022 for the previous year.

Tea.—This industry shows some progress and it is on a better footing now than since its creation.

A general tariff of 90 cents per kilo was imposed on foreign tea on the 10th of October last; the preferential tariff of 60 cents per kilo on British Empire grown tea was not altered.

Coconut.—The export of copra during the year amounted to 1,565 metric tons of a value of Rs.161,687, as against 1,203 tons valued at Rs.201,393 last year. The export of coconut oil during the year was 15,324 litres valued at Rs.3,653, as compared with 4,385 litres last year, valued at Rs.1,992.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 510,232 litres, as compared with 553,287 last year. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 441,620 litres as against 480,554 last year. There has been a decrease in the consumption of Cernite owing to the fall in price of petrol. The exportation of rum during the year was 35,325 litres valued at Rs.10,177, as against 36,489 litres in 1933, valued at Rs.7,792.

Veterinary and livestock.—The improvement in cattle raising was well maintained during the year. The total horned cattle on estates at the beginning of the year was 14,247 head, as compared with 13,260 the previous year.

Importation of cattle from Madagascar during the year numbered 4,544 head for food and 223 head for other purposes.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

As is usually the case when the price of sugar is low, attention is more actively given to minor manufactures. Engineering workshops, numbering 46, gave employment to about 500 people. During the year there were 71 bakeries in operation, employing about 300 people. There were 37 limekilns and 122 cabinet-making establishments, employing in all about 800 artisans.

The larger establishments comprise four docks (landing, etc.), employing about 500 people; eight cigarette factories with 100 people at work; four hydro-electrical plants (for light and power) employing about 300 people; four salt-making establishments employing 100 people, and one match factory employing about 100 people.

In addition to the above, there are several fairly prosperous minor industries making commodities such as aerated waters, ice, vinegar, biscuits, pickles and preserved fruits, and manufacturing pottery, leather, boots and shoes.

All the produce of these local industries is locally utilized and helps, to a certain extent, in equilibrating the Colony's trade balance.

Fisheries.

The marine resources of Mauritius are fully described and discussed in a report by Mr. James Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, which was published in 1926 and has formed the basis for all modern methods of fisheries control and development during the past eight years. The recommendations of Mr. Hornell have been put into effect by legislative measures submitted to Government by a Fisheries Advisory Committee consisting of ten members, of whom five are elected members of Council, the most important development of the year 1934 being the introduction of a prohibited season for fishing with nets. This experiment is being watched with the closest interest by the Committee, and there is abundant evidence up to the present that its introduction has been entirely justified, the quantity and quality of fish in the markets having shown a steady improvement since netting was suspended.

Most of the smaller types of fish sent to market are caught in bamboo or wire "basket-traps" placed in the lagoons, and the larger varieties are taken by line fishing in the open sea outside the reefs. Both these methods of fishing are gradually developing as a result of the cessation of net fishing, and the catches are steadily improving on all the fishing grounds.

The Fisheries Committee is taking an active interest in the expansion of the fishing industry, the welfare of the working fisherman, the introduction of modern methods of fishing and drying fish, and the question of the establishment of a shark-product industry.

Large fish of the following species are to be found in the usually calm water surrounding the Island and are commonly taken by trolling with modern tackle comprising rod, reel and harness, and also with powerful hand lines known locally as "chicottes":—

<i>Local Name.</i>	<i>General Name.</i>	<i>Scientific Name.</i>
Thon.	Tunny, Tuna.	<i>Thunnus, Thynnus.</i>
Becune.	—	<i>Cybrium Commersonii.</i>
Empereur Eventail.	Sailfish.	<i>Histiophorus Indicus.</i>
Empereur.	Marlin Swordfish.	<i>Tetrapturus mitsukurri.</i>
Carangue.	Horse Mackerel.	<i>Caranx ferdon.</i>
Tazare.	Barracuda.	<i>Sphyraena barracuda.</i>
Dorade.	Dolphin.	<i>Coryphoena hippurus.</i>
Vacoa.	—	<i>Aprion Viresceus.</i>

The enforcement of the fishery laws is in the hands of a specially organized police unit of eighteen men in the form of eight fishery control sections distributed round the Coast at the principal fishing centres. They are equipped with one motor launch, two boats fitted with outboard motors and ten sailing boats, and perform constant patrols in the reserves.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The year 1934 was one of trade depression for the Colony.

The total value of exports of domestic produce was about Rs.25,000,000, whereas the imports were roughly Rs.29,600,000. The re-exports being about a million rupees, the total trade thus resulted in an adverse balance of about three and a-half million rupees.

This situation was brought about by:—

- (a) Low prices obtained by sugar, almost the sole produce of the Colony;
- (b) a prolonged drought which cut down the crop.

It does not appear on the other hand that there were any very exaggerated expenses on articles of imports, twelve million rupees being for food and drink, out of which over seven million rupees were for rice and flour. Moreover restrictions were clearly made on textiles (probably as a result of quotas), on machinery and fertilizers and even on petrol, though not to the same extent as in 1932, another year of similar depression.

The total values of imports and exports for the last four years were:—

				<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
				Rs.	Rs.
1931	...	...	...	32,064,074	23,829,884
1932	...	...	...	26,992,760	27,662,851
1933	...	...	...	29,035,237	32,176,743
1934	...	...	...	29,680,346	26,136,140

Imports of Merchandise.

The Colony relies for its existence on imports of all classes of goods (except sugar) from other countries. All the essential food-stuffs (rice, flour, dhol, etc.), all articles of transport (motor-cars, coals, petrol), all kinds of metal-ware and textiles, and manures are imported.

The following table indicates some of the principal imports, with the figures for the last two years :—

				Quantity.		Value in Rupees (c.i.f.).	
				1933.	1934.	1933.	1934.
Rice	...	...	kilos	50,721,508	59,872,476	4,923,642	5,916,026
Flour	...	...	„	9,461,259	14,796,214	975,613	1,340,935
Coals	...	...	„	39,028,260	35,546,079	518,858	469,362
Timber	...	...	—	—	—	266,860	446,045
Apparel	...	...	—	—	—	533,260	632,542
Gunny bags	...	...	number	3,244,006	3,800,400	976,132	1,116,914
Cotton, grey or	...	...	metres	2,966,360	3,016,894	524,158	575,432
	white.						
„	coloured	„		6,075,976	4,068,131	1,293,171	1,049,457
Silk	...	...		—	—	670,822	396,108
Machinery	...	...		—	—	767,606	612,474
Motor-cars	...	...	number	211	246	478,358	553,807
Petrol	...	...	hectolitres	57,471	55,788	844,760	754,821
Saltpetre	...	...	kilos	4,411,898	3,533,177	790,493	664,763
Sulphate of	...	...	„	13,465,494	7,396,528	1,252,099	732,290
	Ammonia.						
Soap	...	...	„	1,746,960	1,625,744	730,612	649,941

Exports of Merchandise.

The life of Mauritius depends on one industry* (sugar) with practically a single outlet (the United Kingdom).

In 1934, 185,606 tons of sugar were exported, valued at Rs.24,510,185, compared with 226,651 tons valued at Rs.30,811,638 in 1933. The share of the United Kingdom in these exports was 178,177 tons valued at Rs.23,514,119, compared with 225,888 tons valued at Rs.30,701,819 in the previous year. The residue went mainly to Canada and Hong-Kong.

Small quantities of aloe fibre, copra, rum, coconut oil, etc., are also exported each year.

The re-exports consist mainly of lentils, gunny bags, salted fish, old metals, etc.

The total value of domestic exports (other than sugar) in 1934 was Rs.518,625 and of re-exports Rs.1,107,330.

Bullion and Specie.

The figures previously quoted do not include the trade in bullion and specie.

In 1934, the Indian silver currency was replaced in Mauritius by a new local currency.

Mainly as a result of this, Rs.2,182,000 and Rs.2,419,834 bullion and specie were imported and exported respectively in 1934.

Distribution of Imports.

The sources of the essential food-stuffs are India for grain and Australia for flour.

The manufactured articles come mainly from the United Kingdom.

On a total value of Rs.12,010,600 for food, drink and tobacco imported in 1934, Rs.7,487,941 came from India and Rs.1,571,406 from Australia.

On a total of Rs.15,231,749 for manufactured articles imported in 1934, Rs.7,199,536 came from the United Kingdom. The difference is mainly represented by Rs.2,412,124 from India (gunny bags, etc.); Rs.1,396,446 from the United States and the Dutch East Indies (petrol, etc.); and Rs.1,320,354 from Japan.

The imports of manufactured articles from Japan in 1933 were Rs.1,736,362. The decline is an effect of quotas for cottons and artificial silks.

The values of imports from the six principal countries for the last four years were :—

		1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	...	7,504,119	6,455,759	9,421,478	8,607,391
India		11,578,208	9,961,711	8,414,824	10,125,043
France		2,212,821	1,493,237	1,430,497	1,317,978
United States of America		1,369,193	1,706,612	1,060,471	1,183,337
Japan		1,124,070	1,459,329	1,792,705	1,353,913
Australia		1,330,344	1,265,728	1,171,065	1,743,371

Course of Prices of Imports.

The declared *c.i.f.* price of rice was somewhat higher in 1934 than in 1933, but it did not much exceed 10 cents per kilo on an average. Wheat flour was cheaper, being under 10 cents per kilo. Petrol was sufficiently cheap (cheaper than in 1933) and most essential food-stuffs (other than rice) and textiles were generally at moderate prices.

Speaking generally, the prices of imports did not fall sufficiently to enable the Colony, with its increased purchasing power, to achieve a favourable trade balance.

Development of Empire Trade.

On the 30th of September, 1924, a small preferential tariff in favour of the United Kingdom was introduced. Since that time, this tariff has been gradually enlarged, and it now embodies two-thirds in value of the goods imported from the United Kingdom. Moreover, from the 11th of July, 1933, the same protection has been extended to all parts of the Empire.

The difference between the duty collected on preferential imports from the United Kingdom and the would-be collections at the general tariff rates is about Rs.800,000 yearly.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages and salaries remained practically on the same level as last year. Labourers under monthly contract received in cash Rs.10 per month, with rations, free lodging, free medical attendance, etc., in all equivalent to about Rs.18 per month. Male day labourers received generally Rs.0.45 per daily task, although during the harvesting season higher rates were often paid. As a rule, females received half the wages of males.

Remuneration for piece-work was, on the average, as follows :—

	<i>Per acre.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>
Clearing land	30 - 35
Digging cane holes	18
Manuring	10
Weeding	7
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	13

The wages of artisans remained upon the whole the same as last year. Day workers received R.1 to Rs.1.50, while those employed by the month received Rs.35 to Rs.70 according to circumstances.

The supply of domestic servants was, generally speaking, abundant. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants received Rs.10 to Rs.30 per month, while chauffeurs were paid Rs.30 to Rs.40 per month. Owing to healthier conditions and better opportunities for work, the concentration of population in the central districts of the Island is very pronounced, and labour is more abundant there than elsewhere.

Salaries remained in 1934 on the same level as during the previous year. The following table indicates, in a general way, the ruling rates :—

	<i>Per annum.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000-13,000
Government, bank, and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000- 7,000
Clerks and employés on sugar estates ...	1,500- 3,000
Junior clerks and employés	720- 1,500

During the year, a graduated poll tax on all incomes in excess of Rs.5,000 per annum was imposed.

The index numbers of the cost of living which had been trending downwards rose considerably during the last quarter of the year. Rice, the staple food of the population, oscillated about 66 as compared with 100 in 1914), while other grains remained about 80. Flour, after a brief period of rise, fell to 53 during the last quarter. Tea rose from 115 to 128, while coffee fell from 85 to 70. Articles of clothing remained, upon the whole, markedly above pre-war

level: at the beginning and the end of the year they were, on the average, indexed at 142 and 187 respectively. The quarterly index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1934 was as follows (100 being the index for 1914):—

First quarter	...	...	...	...	...	110.9
Second quarter	...	...	...	...	...	105.7
Third quarter	...	...	...	...	...	105.4
Fourth quarter	...	...	...	...	...	129.4

The mean for the year was 112.8 as compared with 112.4 in 1933.

As regards the labouring class, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927:—

Year.	<i>Average daily wages of male labourer.</i>			<i>Average price of fair quality rice per lb.</i>		<i>Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.</i>	
	Rs.			Rs.		lb.	
1927	...	...	1.25	0.13		9½	
1928	...	...	1.25	0.10		12½	
1929	...	...	1.00	0.10		10	
1930	...	...	0.80	0.09		9	
1931	...	...	0.75	0.08		9	
1932	...	...	0.45	0.05½		8	
1933	...	...	0.45	0.06		7½	
1934	...	...	0.45	0.06		7½	

The official index numbers do not include a number of items such as housing, lighting, tuition of children, etc., which have been either not reduced at all or but slightly so, and are still markedly above pre-war level: in consequence, the cost of living for Europeans and people living in European style is, in fact, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Primary.—Primary education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1934:—

<i>Schools.</i>				<i>No. of Institutions.</i>	<i>No. of Teachers.</i>	<i>No. of Pupils on roll.</i>	<i>No. of Pupils in average attendance.</i>
Government	...	...	...	50	389	15,550	10,505
Aided	...	...	...	76	605	24,672	17,532
<i>Total</i>				126	994	40,222	28,037

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles of agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz. :—

Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.

Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.

Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.

Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.

Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.

Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. The new system allows educational officers to devote more time to inspection work proper with the result that teaching methods are gradually improving.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicrafts. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

There are thirty gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by the officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz :—(1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Aided Secondary Schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools, with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1934 :—

				No. of Pupils
				in average
Schools.	No. of	No. of	No. of Pupils	attendance.
	Institutions.	Teachers.	on roll.	
Aided	9	120	1,581	1,402

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend, as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College*.—The Royal College is a Government School for the higher education of boys up to the age of 20. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, twelve Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, eleven Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor; and at the Royal College School, of the Headmaster, one Master and eight Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical and physical laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, botany, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. Admission to the College and School is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the twenty Annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions (or one of the two Secondary Schools Scholarships awarded annually). The boys are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from ten to twenty years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. About twelve College Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded annually to College and School pupils, besides one Scholarship and one Exhibition open to other secondary schools as well, and also a Classical and a Modern Scholarship of the present value of £1,300 each (with first-class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom. Besides the winners of these Scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to

England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the Island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the upper middle class. At the School pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1933, was 302, and of the School, 102. The average attendance at the College was 286 and at the School 96. (The number of College pupils on the roll in May, 1934, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 305.) One hundred and three pupils sat in December, 1933, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 55 obtained certificates. In May, 1934, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the college was 53.

Encouragement is given to athletics, rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and physical training, and gymnastics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published thrice yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one "home" for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932 as subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a "home" styled The Austin Wilson Home has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this "home" have been generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan Orphanage was also established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers is granted by the Poor Law Department partly in cash and partly in food provisions. Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Française d'Assistance assist chiefly destitute French people.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de lait, two philanthropic institutions, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by the employer to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from June to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. "La Chasse" or the shooting of driven deer can be said to be the national sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the Police Band, which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the "Alliance Musicale" and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts, especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the natural history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library will be transferred to the Institute.

X.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.**Roads and Road Transport.**

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 188 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled, and 160 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The number of motor vehicles in actual use at the end of 1934 was as follows :—

Private motor cars	1,546
Motor cycles	193
Motor lorries...	311
Motor cabs	304
Motor omnibuses	117
	2,471

On account of the hilly nature of the country, the travelling public has in the past shown a preference for American cars of high horse-power, but during the last two or three years the number of cars of English manufacture registered has increased very considerably, and during the year under review 221 motor vehicles of English make were imported, including three 3-wheel runabouts and five Diesel lorries, the latter being the first of this type of vehicle to appear in the Colony. The total number of all makes imported during 1934 amounted to 320.

A fleet of 120 buses owned by small proprietors ply for hire throughout the Colony. These vehicles are built locally on the lines of the single decker buses approved by the Minister of Transport in England, and provide a comfortable and convenient form of transport to members of the public not living near railway stations. These vehicles carry a daily average of 3,700 passengers in and out of Port Louis at a cost varying from 2 to 5 cents per passenger mile. All bus routes and the number of buses allotted to each route are controlled by the Transport Control Board, but so far no attempt has been made to regulate the fares nor to introduce time-tables.

The number of motor vehicles registered has not increased to any considerable extent during the past ten years, but from sales of fuel there appears to have been a very considerable increase in the mileage covered by them, and in the year under review the 2,471 motor vehicles are estimated to have covered nearly 25,000,000 miles.

Petrol is usually sold by retail in cases containing 8 gallons of spirit, and is the principal fuel in use. During the year its price fell from Rs.12.60 to Rs.10.00 per case, or an equivalent of about 2s. 4½d. to 1s. 10½d. per gallon. In addition to a few Diesel lorries imported during the year which burn oil fuel, there are also

a small number of vehicles fitted with charcoal generators and working on suction gas. Industrial alcohol, a produce distilled from sugar-cane mixed with ether, is also used as motor spirit in some commercial vehicles, but although the mixture is about 30 per cent. cheaper than petrol, on account of its lower efficiency it has not yet found any appreciable market, and its use is confined chiefly to a few heavy vehicles working on level ground.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton of gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor cabs pay a licence duty of Rs.30.

Certificates of competency to drive are issued by the Police Department. Applicants who have not previously held driving licences have to undergo a test. The cost of the first issue of a certificate of competency and driving licence for one year is Rs.7 and for every subsequent renewal Rs.5 is charged. Cars of visitors are accepted in the Colony at any time, and are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.5 a month.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways, not including $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 75 cm. gauge track, known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway, are of the British standard 4 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches gauge and comprise $110\frac{3}{4}$ miles of main line, 30 miles of station lay-outs and Government sidings, as well as 16 miles of other sidings maintained by the Railway Department for planters and sugar estates. The Railway is exceptional on account of its comparatively short length and very heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26. The most important section, the midland line, $35\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, rises to 1,800 feet above the terminals, which are at Port Louis, the capital, on the north-west and Mahebourg, the old port, on the south-east coasts of the Island. A branch from Rose Belle on the midland line, 870 feet above sea-level, to the little creek and town of Souillac is 11 miles long. The north line from Port Louis to Grand River South-East, $33\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, is fairly level. The Moka branch, from Rose Hill on the midland line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanchè, is $14\frac{3}{4}$ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. The Black River branch, from Richelieu on the midland line to Tamarin, is $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and the Montagne Longue branch, from Terre Rouge on the north line to Montagne Longue, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. There are no heavy gradients on either of these lines.

An excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs.40,544 was forecast for the financial year beginning on the 1st July, 1933, and ending on the 30th June, 1934. In actual fact the year closed with

an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs.139,832 as shown below. In view of the urgent necessity for economy renewal expenditure amounted to Rs.22,103 only, although it is estimated that depreciation on a conservative basis amounts to Rs.300,000 per annum :—

			<i>Revenue</i>			<i>Increase or Decrease of 1933-34 over 1932-33.</i>
			<i>1931-32.</i>	<i>1932-33.</i>	<i>1933-34.</i>	
			<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Passengers	...	...	434,325	419,181	524,818	+ 105,637
Parcels	...	...	63,466	62,163	65,776	+ 3,613
General Goods	...	...	817,077	1,174,046	1,255,729	+ 81,683
Miscellaneous	...	...	70,875	57,412	53,809	— 3,603
Net Revenue	...	...	187,938	63,554	36,738	— 26,816
Total			1,573,681	1,776,356	1,936,870	+ 160,514
Goods Tonnage	...	...	254,139	362,642	385,541	

			<i>Expenditure</i>			<i>Increase or Decrease of 1933-34 over 1932-33.</i>
			<i>1931-32.</i>	<i>1932-33.</i>	<i>1933-34.</i>	
			<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Working expenditure including renewals.			1,945,113	1,516,631	1,606,730	+ 90,099
Net revenue expenditure			642,785	260,955	190,308	— 70,647
Total	...	...	2,587,898	1,777,586	1,797,038	+ 19,452
Capital Expenditure	...		20,226	304	—	— 304
			2,608,124	1,777,890	1,797,038	+ 19,148

The passenger revenue, which in the year 1932-33 was the lowest ever recorded since Railway statistics have been kept, has shown a definite increase during the year 1933-34. This satisfactory result is chiefly due to the extended application of special cheap concession fares put into force between the more heavily populated areas and Port Louis. Passengers have increased in the year under review by 871,826 (36 per cent.), i.e., to 3,287,714 journeys, the number of journeys in 1932-33 being 2,415,888. This increased travelling has involved some increased services. Passenger train miles have in consequence risen to 345,291 from 299,298 miles in 1932-33, i.e., by 15.37 per cent., with a corresponding increase in operating expenditure (which also covers a considerable additional goods traffic not anticipated) of 5.2 per cent. It is significant to note that bus traffic shows a decrease this year from 2,972,195 passengers in 1933 to 2,700,048 passengers in 1934.

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ERRATUM.

Page 29, line 5. Delete the word “ thousand ”.

The goods traffic, which represents the largest item of the Railway revenue, showed an increase over the previous year of Rs.81,683. The increase is chiefly due to the heavy sugar crop harvested in July-December, 1933, which, although estimated at 230,000 tons, actually amounted to 261,460 ~~thousand~~ tons. There is an increase in the general goods revenue (other than sugar and cane) again this year, and a considerable tonnage has been won back from the road transport carriers to the railway chiefly by means of the door-to-door rail and road service commenced last year.

Tramways.

In relation to the tramway lines established on sugar estates since 1901, no important change took place during the year. The total extent of line approximated to 1,740 kilometres. There were 224 locomotives and about 7,500 trucks. Farm tractors in operation on estates were reduced from 100 in 1933 to 81 this year, possibly owing to the cheaper human labour available.

Posts and Telegraphs.

Inland communication by posts and telegraphs is satisfactory. There are 52 post and telegraph offices, four offices doing only postal work, one parcels office at Port Louis which is also a parcels exchange office, and the General Post Office; there is also a postal exchange office. Outlying offices and localities far from railway stations are served by postmen on bicycles. Mails for the Black River District are conveyed by a motor-car contractor.

Mails from America, Europe, North Africa, Asia via Aden, and East Africa are received by the Messageries Maritimes Steamers regularly every 14 days. European and American mails are also received from South Africa, conveyed by vessels of the Dutch K.P.M. Company, which call regularly once a month, and also by occasional steamers from Durban. The average time taken for European mails via Marseilles during the year 1934 was 34.19 days, as compared with 34.2 days via the Union of South Africa.

Advantage is taken of three routes for the Air Mail Service, viz.: (1) via Tananarive, connecting with the Imperial Airways at Broken Hill; time taken in transit for letters to England, 13 to 14 days; (2) via Johannesburg by the Imperial Airways, from 15 to 26 days; (3) via Nairobi by the Imperial Airways, 26 to 28 days.

The postal parcels service shows a marked improvement. The "cash on delivery" service with Great Britain has increased considerably this last year. There is also a "cash on delivery" service with France.

The telephone service is performed by the Oriental Telephone Company, which serves the towns and districts. The Government offices are linked together by a Government owned telephone

system, which is connected with the Oriental Telephone Company's lines.

Telegraphic communication is provided by cable and is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraphic Company, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams from and to the rural districts are transmitted over the Government land telegraphs. The Company maintains a station also at Port Mathurin, in Rodrigues. All classes of traffic are accepted. There is a wireless station at Rose Belle which maintains a twenty-four hour service, and works mainly with ships at sea and with Reunion Island. The wireless station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communication with ships at sea and with the various naval bases in the Indian Ocean, and was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923.

During the cyclonic season from 1st November to 15th May, a detailed weather report including observations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues, Madagascar and Reunion is broadcast daily to all stations and ships within range. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice*, stationed in the harbour at Port Louis, is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless telegraphy station at Rose Belle.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the Island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pietor Both, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses of Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for four years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies.

Five years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc. are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was completed four years ago as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony, and is now working satisfactorily.

Shipping.

There are two regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom. There is a fortnightly service between Marseilles and Mauritius maintained by the Messageries Maritimes Company; the average journey takes about six weeks and involves a stay of five or six days at Reunion either on the outward or inward journey.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch) Line leave Mauritius once a month for Durban and Cape ports and once a month for Mombasa via Beira. A vessel also leaves Durban once a month direct for Mauritius. The K.P.M. Line has a working arrangement with the Union Castle Line of steamers and the voyage to England via the K.P.M. and Union Castle Lines averages about 32 days. Occasional vessels of the British India Steam Navigation Company take passengers to Colombo, and the journey to England by this means takes from 28 to 35 days. Cheap passages to the United Kingdom can occasionally be secured during the sugar shipping season, October to March, on cargo steamers. The voyage averages 40 days.

It is interesting, but regrettable, to note that passenger facilities between Mauritius and the United Kingdom were far better twenty years ago than they are to-day. The vessels of the Messageries Maritimes Company used to perform the voyage in 31 to 33 days, against an average of 36 days at present, and the Union Castle Company and the British India Company used to make regular monthly calls. Passenger fares have also increased, in so far as voyages via South Africa are concerned, by over 100 per cent.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving Port Louis during the past three years were as follows :—

		INWARDS.					
		1932.		1933.		1934.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	{ Steamers ...	175	547,874	202	622,772	207	641,389
	{ Sailing Ships	9	5,473	2	426	2	345
		184	553,347	204	623,198	209	641,734
Coasting	{ Steamers ...	6	2,961	5	2,376	6	5,274
	{ Sailing Ships	12	2,657	13	3,385	20	3,837
		18	5,618	18	5,761	26	9,111

		OUTWARDS.					
		1932.		1933.		1934.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	{ Steamers ...	173	546,307	204	627,638	207	643,543
	{ Sailing Ships	8	5,473	2	426	1	40
		181	551,780	206	628,064	208	643,583
Coasting	{ Steamers ...	6	2,961	6	2,839	6	5,274
	{ Sailing Ships	7	2,111	14	3,743	21	4,142
		13	5,072	20	6,582	27	9,416

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz. :—

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank ;
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India, and
- (c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1934, was Rs.6,642,718·52. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1934, amounted to Rs.3,628,000. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local bank on 31st December, 1934, amounted to Rs.3,229,897. This bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was

founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836) and the National Bank of South Africa Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts, with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1934, was 38,322, as against 38,093 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.5,401,710·09 as against Rs.5,379,006·44. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted "to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis". By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay, on demand, sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and sixpence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegrams sent in connexion with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a-half per centum.

At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13.70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and fivepence-halfpenny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13.57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over. The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from the currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at a value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable but the seigniorage on the issue is similarly invested.

The value of currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1934, was Rs.7,922,045 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.1,130,000.

Weights and Measures.

The Metric System is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of length and area:—

1 ligne Française	=	2.258 millimetres or 0.088 inch.
12 lignes	=	1 French inch.
12 French inches	=	1 French foot.
1 French foot	=	1.06 English feet.
1 lieue	=	2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette	=	10 French feet.
1 arpent	=	40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres.
1 toise	=	6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.
1 aune or ell	=	1 yard 11 inches.

Measures of capacity:—

1 barrique	=	50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon	=	190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte	=	7.45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille	=	800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine	=	½ bouteille.
1 corde	=	80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of weight:—

1 gamelle	=	5.250 kilogrammes.
1 livre	=	500 grammes or 1.10 English pounds.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Land, water-supplies, and state irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the capitulation of the Island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors

at “ Mon Plaisir ”, Pamplemousses, and “ Le Reduit ”, Moka, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the Island one mental and nine general hospitals. And old hospital, the Grand River North West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water-works, roads, and buildings.

Sewerage works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. The old timber bridges are being gradually replaced by ferro-concrete structures. Fifty-nine remain to be reconstructed.

Water works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2 million gallons.

The water-supply of the towns of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water-supply is filtered through sand filters at “ La Marie ”, about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being $5\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000 and the average daily consumption $3\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons. The Mare aux Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Rivière of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931.

At the beginning of 1934 a Committee was appointed to report on the quality of the water of the Mare aux Vacoas supply, and on

measures that could be adopted to improve the quality. The report was received in June, 1934, and it concluded as follows:—

“ The purification of the Mare aux Vacoas waters by means of existing slow sand filtration is inefficacious and defective and does not constitute an adequate safeguard in the event, however unlikely, of harmful contamination of the raw water.”

The main recommendations of the Committee were to the effect that (i) the raw water should be taken from the lake as near as possible from the surface (ii) the water should be aerated before the filters and (iii) the water be chlorinated after filtration.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from twenty-seven different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000, and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius. The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been finished, and the Nicolière scheme to irrigate land in the north, was started in 1918. These two schemes cover 18,700 acres in the area below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water. The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugar-cane plantation. The plans for the Nicolière scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicolière of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended. The Feeder Channel which measures $16\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Midlands to Nicolière and which had been completed by the end of 1931 with a reduced section has now been built up to its full section and concreted. The area covered by the existing curtailed plan is only 11,000 as compared with 15,000 acres in the original plan.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Following immediately upon the capitulation of the island in the year 1810, a Proclamation issued in the name of His Majesty King George III guaranteed to its inhabitants the preservation of their existing laws and customs. Apart from certain local

enactments the laws then in force were those embodied in the Code Napoleon and the French Codes of Commerce and Civil Procedure. These continue to constitute the main body of law applicable in the Colony, as modified, amended or added to by subsequent legislation.

The Supreme Court of Mauritius (which superseded the former "Cour d'Appel") was constituted in the year 1850, and invested with "all the powers, authority and jurisdiction possessed and exercised by the Court of Queen's Bench". It is also a Court of Equity, and exercises jurisdiction in Admiralty, Bankruptcy and Matrimonial Causes.

The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis), and consists of a Chief Judge and two or more Puisne Judges, Matrimonial Causes and Civil actions where the amount involved does not exceed the value of Rs.3,000 are heard before a single judge; where the amount exceeds this figure, before two judges; or when some point of law of exceptional difficulty arises the case is heard either by two judges or by the Full Bench. Where the sum involved is of the amount of Rs.10,000 or upwards an appeal lies of right from the decisions of the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and in other cases by leave of the Supreme Court.

The Bankruptcy Division of the Court is usually presided over by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy, from whose decisions an appeal lies (subject to certain limitations) to the judges of the Civil Division.

Criminal Assizes are held four times a year, and are presided over by a single judge who is empowered to reserve any question of law arising at the trial or as to which he subsequently entertains any doubt as to the correctness of his original decision, for argument before the Full Bench. Criminal cases are conducted before a jury of nine male persons, and a majority verdict of not less than seven is sufficient (even in capital cases) to support a conviction.

The Supreme Court of Mauritius entertains appeals not only from the inferior tribunals of the Colony, both in civil and criminal matters, but also from the decisions of the Supreme Court of Seychelles.

Since the year 1847 English has been the official language of the Court.

Magistracies.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions. A magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs.1,000 and in all criminal matters with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs.1,000 fine. A Bench of three magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences and also at the request of the Procureur General for nearly all offences, with

jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine possibly of Rs.3,000. An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by one of two magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The magistrates heard 10,187 civil cases and 12,516 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences, and held :—

126 coroners' inquests ;

21 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force is organized mainly on the lines of a " Civil " as distinct from a " Military " Police Force although all recruits receive a certain amount of instruction in the use of the rifle, and an Armed Detachment of 1 Officer and 46 Other Ranks is maintained at Headquarters in case of emergency. Two Lewis Gun Sections are also given an annual course of training and those members of the Force who are fully trained in musketry fire a complete course each year.

Training in military subjects is controlled by officers and other ranks who have previously served in the Army, there being 8 Gazetted Officers and 44 other ranks in the Mauritius Police who were on active service during the war of 1914-18.

The majority of the officers of the Force have been promoted from the ranks, but direct appointments and transfers from other Colonies are made when necessary.

Recruits are obtained entirely from local sources and there is at present an ample supply of excellent candidates.

Distribution.—The establishment of 20 Officers and 595 other ranks is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training Depot, Harbour Police, District Police, Railway Police, Rodrigues Police and Band.

The District Police are distributed in Magisterial Districts as follows :—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Number of Stations.</i>	<i>Number of Personnel.</i>
Port Louis	8	219
Plaines Wilhems	5	79
Black River	4	14
Curepipe	5	47
Grand Port	6	44
Savanne	5	23
Pamplemousses	6	31
Riviere du Rempart	5	20
Moka	5	34
Flacq	5	35

The Rodrigues and Railway Police are detailed from the trained establishment of the General Police and are under the independent control of the Resident Magistrate of Rodrigues and the General Manager of Railways respectively.

The Band is under the control of an European Bandmaster holding the rank of Inspector and has an establishment of 30 other ranks.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the Police during the year 1934 was 24,281, which shows an increase on the figure for 1933 which was 23,502, and an increase on the average of 20,647 for the past three years.

It should be noted that this marked increase is entirely due to the continuous improvement in the Police control of various revenue-producing duties and is not in any way caused by an increase of crime. This is made clear by the following explanatory statement as regards offences against persons and property during 1933 and 1934 :—

A.—There has been a decrease in offences against the person : 8,065 in 1934 as against 8,492 in 1933 ;

B.—There has also been a decrease in offences against property : 3,060 in 1934 as against 3,275 in 1933.

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 24,281 offences was 11,471, of whom 10,519 were convicted, 600 otherwise disposed of, and 352 were still awaiting trial at the end of the year. Corresponding figures for the previous year were :—11,647 persons prosecuted, of whom 10,364 were convicted, 658 otherwise disposed of, and 625 awaiting trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Prison Department of Mauritius is placed under the charge of the Inspector-General of Police who is responsible for the control of penal institutions as Superintendent of Prisons. Four senior Officers, in addition to the Superintendent,

are drawn from British Army, Police or Prison Services and the remaining staff of 108 is recruited from local sources.

Establishments.—The penal institutions are Port Louis Central Prison and Beau Bassin Prison. Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners and association cells for 40 women. It also contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two senior Officers and two Wardresses. This prison serves as the centre for classification of convicted prisoners and for treatment of special and difficult cases. All juvenile adults and selected first offenders serve their sentences in this institution and all waiting-trial prisoners are housed here in separate accommodation in convenient proximity to the Courts. Every convicted prisoner undergoes examination and treatment for prevalent diseases while detained in this prison and before transfer to Beau Bassin.

Beau Bassin Prison is a comparatively modern type convict prison providing single cell accommodation for 756 male prisoners. Bungalow type quarters for the Superintendent and two chief Officers are located in the surrounding grounds.

Classification.—Convicted prisoners are classified as (a) Penal servitude, (b) Hard labour, (c) Misdemeanants, (d) First offenders, (e) Juvenile adults and (f) Special.

Classes (a) and (b) serve their sentences at Beau Bassin Prison and the remainder at Port Louis where, so far as existing accommodation permits, they are kept apart and receive modified treatment.

Labour.—The principle governing the employment of all prisoners is that they shall be put to such remunerative work as lies within their physical capacity and past experience, and that all long-sentence prisoners who are not tradesmen before conviction shall be taught a trade during their period of imprisonment. The normal labour for male prisoners at Port Louis is carpentry, stone-breaking, cutting fire-wood, carting stores and cleaning Government buildings and grounds. Women prisoners are employed on laundry work and sewing clothing and bedding. At Beau Bassin Prison prisoners with long sentences are taught a trade, while those serving shorter sentences are principally employed on agricultural work in the prison gardens. The trades taught in the prison workshops comprise tailoring, boot, sail, and mattress making; tin-smith work and black-smithing; carpentry and cabinet making; blind, mat, and basket making. Instruction in baking is given in the prison bakery which produces about 1,400 lb. of bread daily and numerous prisoners are trained as stone masons in the quarries and neighbouring grounds.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,939, which is 271 less than in the previous year and 714 less than in 1932. Of these 2,939 persons 1,899 were convicted, and of these 1,233 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprise

1,839 men and 60 women. The daily average population was 458.05 compared with 500.44 in 1933, and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1934, was 424, compared with 381 in 1933 and 503 in 1932. Of the 424 persons in prison 396 were serving sentences and comprised 387 men and 9 women. The number of persons who served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 916, including 7 women.

Health.—The Prison Medical Officer reports that the health of the prisoners has been satisfactory and the sanitary conditions good. Deaths in hospital during the year numbered five, compared with seven in 1933, twenty-two in 1932 and thirty-three in 1931. There were two cases of suicide by hanging.

Industrial School.—The Barkly Industrial School for male juvenile offenders, which was until 1st July, 1934, administered as a unit of the Prisons Department, has been entirely removed from Prison control and is now a separate institution under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police.

The number of boys in the School at the end of the year was 54, compared with 46 in 1933 and 47 in 1932. There were 28 admissions and 20 discharges during the year.

The ordinary primary school education of the inmates is undertaken by officers of the Schools Department, while the manual instruction in agriculture and certain trades is given by Instructors and Assistant Instructors borne on the establishment of the Industrial School.

The health of the boys is uniformly excellent and their physical reformation is remarkable.

The After-care Committee, which was appointed in 1932 to look after the question of the employment of the boys on discharge, has done excellent work and has recently developed into a Visiting Committee with wide powers of inspection and advice which are being employed with great advantage to the School and its inmates.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

A list of the more important Ordinances passed during the year under review is given in Appendix I to this Report.

Certain Ordinances of rather domestic concern were passed dealing with speed of motor vehicles, road traffic, net-fishing, and penalizing the possession of raw sugar for purposes other than exportation, authorizing a special marriage and a burial, reducing the duration of labour contracts and the age for dispensing with parents' consent to the marriage of their sons, preventing the employment of females at night in factories, consolidating education laws, and regulating probation of offences.

Others attempt to work for economic organization and progress; the more important being :—(i) the imposition of a so-called "poll tax" graduated according to the income of individuals and companies with increasing fixed amounts for the several steps in the

ladder of incomes between Rs.5,000 and Rs.70,000, the tax being the same for all incomes beyond Rs.70,000 (Ordinance No. 32); (ii) two Ordinances establishing a new paper and silver currency (Nos. 13 and 39 respectively), the new notes being no longer compulsorily payable in silver, the coins being special to Mauritius but of the same silver standard composition as the Indian Rupees, which are not redeemable in new coins and will soon cease to be legal tender; (iii) a comprehensive radio-communication Ordinance (No. 36) facilitating the use of wireless apparatus and regulating all cognate matters in a line with recent international arrangements; (iv) the creation of a Mauritius Local Defence Force on the lines of the English Territorial Forces legislation and regulations (No. 19).

Social progress is also achieved, in accordance with international ideals, in the matters following :—

Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children—(No. 37), an Ordinance making operative in this Colony the International Labour Conventions regulating :—(1) The admission of children to industrial employment; (2) The night work of young persons in industry; (3) The night work of women in industry; (4) The admission of children to employment at sea.

Minimum Wages—(No. 41), another Ordinance applying to Mauritius the International Labour Convention concerning the creation of machinery for the fixing of minimum wages, whenever necessary, in respect of any trade or occupation.

Dangerous Drugs—(No. 5), an Ordinance regulating the importation and sale of opium and other drugs.

Certain import duties were altered in amending Customs Tariff Ordinances, with a view to increasing Imperial Preference on the articles concerned, and special Ordinances regulating the importation of textiles of foreign origin were readily accepted by the Council of Government in furtherance of the policy of imperial solidarity.

Lastly, both in the interest of labour and to minimize chances of accidents to workmen, as well as again to favour British manufacture, an important consolidated and amending Ordinance provides comprehensively for the control of boilers, their use and inspection, and cognate matters, while it imposes the gradual replacing of existing engines and pipes by material of standard British specification.

XV.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1934, amounted to Rs.16,567,110.18, being Rs.1,414,129.18 above the Estimates and Rs.13,633,308.12 below the Revenue of the previous year, which was Rs.30,200,418.30. The Revenue normally becoming due and collected during the previous year

was Rs.14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue :—

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,347.84
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769.17
Improvement and Development Fund ...	6,317,717.98
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,678.99
Unexpected balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929... ..	7,315.90
	13,259,829.88

The Expenditure for the financial year 1933-34 amounted to Rs.14,634,338.98, being Rs.161,876.98 above the Estimates and Rs.823,749.71 above the Expenditure for the previous year.

The Revenue during the financial year 1933-34 exceeded the Expenditure by Rs.1,932,771.20, and the surplus balance on 30th June, 1934, amounted to Rs.14,876,571.13.

Of the Expenditure for 1933-34, Rs.4,906,498.89 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,727,840.09 on "Other Charges." The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were Rs.4,741,399.51 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,069,189.76 on "Other Charges."

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1929-30	14,483,467	15,575,001
1930-31	11,552,210	16,092,073
1931-32	12,160,278	17,704,574
1932-33	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933-34	16,567,110	14,634,339

The Colonial Government pays a Military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its Revenue (total Revenue exclusive of land sales, Irrigation—Mare aux Vacoas and other water works—revenue, contribution towards Loan 1922 charges and special export duty on sugar) as a contribution to the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The annual contribution was reduced to £15,000 for the two years 1932-33 and 1933-34, and the amount paid for the year ended 30th June, 1934, was Rs.229,944.81.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1934, was £3,246,994 7s. 7d. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,699,669 11s. 1d., as compared with £1,652,076 7s. 8d. on 30th June, 1933.

Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets and Liabilities at the end of the year amounted to Rs.26,451,557.23 and Rs.11,574,986.10 showing a surplus of Rs.14,876,571.13.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1934.

<i>Liabilities.</i>	Rs. cs.	<i>Assets.</i>	Rs. cs.
Other Colonial Governments	16,143.94	Cash Balances	4,027,705.0
Deposits	2,160,586.84	Remittances in transit ...	34,939.8
Loan Funds unexpended ...	561,498.14	Surplus Funds No. 1	2,413,804.1
Appropriated Funds ...	8,836,757.18	invested	
Balance: Surplus of Assets	14,876,571.13	1922 Loan Funds invested	200,000.0
over Liabilities at 30th		1931 Loan Funds invested	249,968.6
June, 1934.		Other Colonial Govern-	12,207.1
		ments.	
		Advances	10,216,553.7
		Unallocated Stores ...	502,853.1
		Appropriated Funds in-	8,793,525.5
		vested.	
	Rs. 26,451,557.23		Rs. 26,451,557.2

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

				1932-33	1933-34
				Rs. cs.	Rs. cs.
Customs—Import duties	...	...		4,423,265.79	5,049,417.16
„ —Export duties*	...	...		906,251.76	978,443.38
Excise duty on rum issued for Home consumption	...	...	...	1,632,897.07	1,761,248.78
Licence duty	...	...	...	1,112,698.23	1,126,758.62
Tobacco excise	...	...	...	1,335,297.07	1,175,639.20
Taxes on vehicles and animals			...	371,992.07	402,866.01
House Tax	...	...	...	403,293.43	304,396.26

* Includes special export duty on sugar.

Customs Duties.

The revenue from Customs duties for the year 1934 was Rs.4,899.209 for imports and Rs.738,624 for exports. (Excluding amount levied on exports for specific purposes.)

The figures for the previous years were:—

					<i>Import duty.</i>	<i>Export duty.</i>
					Rs.	Rs.
1933	...	...	...	...	4,689.026	863,472
1932	...	...	...	...	3,935.135	752,832

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1934 :—

Imports.

Rice	...	...	R.0·63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs.22·00 per hectolitre.
Dholl	...	...	Rs.1·14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R.0·33 per litre.
Flour	...	...	R.0·94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs.6·87 per litre.
Fertilizers	...	...	R.0·11 to Rs.1·10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs.15·00 per kilo.
Petroleum oil	...	...	Rs.5·28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs.16·50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits	...	...	Rs.14·00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs.5·50 to Rs.9·00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common	...	...	Rs.1·93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5·5 to 55 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .

Exports.

*Sugar ...	... R.0·46 per 100	*Aloe fibre ...	Rs.4·0 per 1,000
	kilos.		kilos.

* NOTE—The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under:—

R.0·03	per cent.	kilos	for	destruction of <i>Phytalus Smithi</i> ;
0·03	„	„	„	College of Agriculture;
0·04	„	„	„	Sugar Industry Reserve Fund;
0·36	„	„	„	in refund of loans.

The duty on aloe fibre includes Rs.3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal preferential rates on imports.

	<i>Preferential.</i>	<i>General.</i>
Motor vehicles of all kinds, including tyres and tubes therefor.	5·5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>	36 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>
Silk manufactures (including art silk).	16·5 " " " " or R.0·55 per kilo	55 " " " " or R.1·75 per kilo
	whichever is the higher	
Indigo 	R.1·10 per kilo.	Rs.2·75 per kilo.
Cement 	R.0·30 per 100 kilos.	R.1·00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films ...	Free	R.0·04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial	R.1·45 per 100 kilos.	5·5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Cotton manufactures	13 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .	26 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
	and also specific rates in certain cases.	
Hardware 	11 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .	22 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Coal 	R.0·8 per 100 kil.	R.0·42 per 100 kilos.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption is Rs.2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting purposes is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier.

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of “ Alcoolats ” in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codes or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in the Gazette is Rs.2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1.70 per hectolitre on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

According to the Excise figures the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1933-1934 (July to June) was 1,126,437 litres as compared with an average of 900,332 litres for the past five years.

The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than 4 degrees of alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows :—

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees by Gay Lussac's alcoholometer, a duty of 15 cents per litre ;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wines payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1934 was 337,673.100 kilos as compared with 321,931.100 in 1933.

The excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial and calendar years respectively is given below :—

				Rs.
Financial year 1932-33	...	...	...	1,335,332.45
Financial year 1933-34	...	...	...	1,175,639.20
Calendar year 1933	...	...	...	1,182,074.35
Calendar year 1934	...	...	...	1,219,407.20

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance 22 of 1926. This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds :—

- (1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used ;
- (2) a fixed duty ; and
- (3) an *ad valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax.

Rates.—1 per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.500.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1933-34 was Rs.304,396.26.

Method of Assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In assessing the full and fair value, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or possible rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building. This applies only to buildings whose basic value is above Rs.500 and on which the annual tax is 1 per cent. on the value.

Method of Collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Graduated Poll Tax.

As from 1st July, 1934, a poll tax, graduated according to the taxpayer's income, was imposed in this Colony. The tax applies to persons resident in the Colony and also to non-residents, in respect of all income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony, the basis of assessment being the income of the year preceding the year of assessment. There are certain features which distinguish the tax very definitely from a normal income tax :—

(a) Tax is payable in two instalments, on 31st October and 30th April in the year of assessment, in accordance with a simple form of return consisting of a single total of income without any details whatever. Not later than 31st October, any taxpayer whose income exceeds Rs.5,000 is required to make his return and to pay the first instalment without any assessment being made upon him. Thereafter the Commissioner of Poll Tax has the right to refuse to accept the return and to make an estimated assessment. He also has the right to demand detailed returns from any person who has not already made a return and paid tax and to make estimated assessments upon such persons.

(b) Tax is imposed by reference to a graduated scale which applies to incomes exceeding Rs.5,000. There is no standard rate of tax, incomes being classified in categories to which fixed amounts of tax apply, the maximum tax being Rs.6,150 which applies to all incomes exceeding Rs.70,000.

(c) No personal allowances of any kind are in force.

(d) Depreciation is not allowed as a deduction.

(e) There is no provision for any carry forward of losses but as the tax is levied on aggregate income from all sources, a loss in any one year is set off against income of the same year.

(f) There is no deduction of tax at the source and with certain minor exceptions dividends and interest are allowable as deductions in computing taxable income.

In two respects the tax is noticeably different from the poll taxes levied in Kenya and Tanganyika :—

(a) Persons taxable include artificial legal entities as well as individuals.

(b) A consideration of the taxpayer's residence or ordinary residence is irrelevant as a test of liability to tax.

The tax is unique and is the result of local conditions peculiar to this Colony.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

A critical situation arose during the latter part of the year owing to low prices and the large reduction of the 1934 sugar crop consequent on the severe drought which prevailed during the period November, 1933, to April, 1934.

The sugar production was only 178·86 thousand tons for the year under review against 261·46 thousand tons for the previous year and an average of 235·53 thousand tons in respect of the years 1927-32, exclusive of 1931 when on account of a severe hurricane the output was reduced to 164·01 thousand tons.

This reduction in the sugar crop of 1934 and the low prices fetched for sugar caused a considerable depletion of the sterling usually available in London for the financing of the 1935-36 crop and, in response to representations made that financial assistance was urgently required, the Government agreed to guarantee the repayment up to a maximum of £450,000 to the London banks which would open credit by overdrafts to the local banks repayable after the sale of the 1935 crop.

The Colony continued to enjoy the benefit of the General Imperial Preference amounting to about 3s. 9d. per cwt. on all Colonial sugars consigned to the United Kingdom. Important changes were however introduced during the year in the system of special preference given in 1932 and instead of the special preference of 1s. 0d. per cwt. on the total crop exported and an additional

preference of 1s. 0d. per cwt. on a prescribed quota, amounting to 104,000 tons in the case of Mauritius, it was decided by His Majesty's Government to grant a special preference of 3s. 0d. per cwt. on a quantity of Colonial sugars limited to 360,000 tons, the quota of Mauritius sugar entitled to such preference being fixed at 112,400 tons.

A certain proportion of the 1933 crop, amounting to 89,530 tons of sugar, which was still unsold or had been sold on the basis of the existing preference, was due to arrive in England after the date of announcement of the introduction of the new system of preference and, on representations made by the local producers that this state of things would result in severe losses and would nullify the benefit of the special quota for 1933, His Majesty's Government agreed, as a special case, that the quota allotted to Mauritius in respect of the year 1934 should be increased by 15,000 tons, equivalent in cash value to £45,000.

With a total production of about 179,000 tons of sugar for the year, the value of the preference amounted to roughly £1,100,000 in respect of the 1934-35 crop.

The Colony's contribution towards Imperial Funds in respect of military expenditure, which had been reduced to £15,000 a year for the financial years 1932-33 and 1933-34 with a view to assisting in the recovery of financial equilibrium, was fixed at £44,000 (Rs.586,520) during the year 1934-35 representing the actual cost of the garrison. Calculated on the statutory basis of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the revenue of the Colony liable to Military contribution, the amount to be paid to Imperial funds would have stood at about Rs.725,000, or a benefit of about Rs.140,000 to the Colony.

During the year 1934 radical changes were effected in the monetary system of the Colony comprising (a) the calling in of the Currency Notes in circulation and the issue of new Currency Notes by the enactment of Ordinance No. 13 of 1934, and (b) the abandonment of the Indian rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee silver coins, and their replacement by a silver rupee and its subdivisions of the Government of Mauritius (Ordinance No. 39 of 1934). The new coins were put into circulation during the year while the demonetization of the Indian rupee and its subdivisions was postponed to a later date.

It was decided not to enforce the Ordinance which was passed in 1932 for the imposition of an income tax and provision was made by the enactment of Ordinance No. 32 of 1934 for the imposition of a so-called "poll tax" graduated according to the income of individuals and companies with increasing fixed amounts of tax for the several steps in the ladder of incomes between Rs.5,000 and Rs.70,000. In June, 1934, the Secretary of State for the Colonies granted an interview to three delegates chosen by a number of taxpayers of the Colony to proceed to England and protest against the imposition of this tax. After discussion the decision

to introduce some measure of direct taxation in the form of the so-called “ poll tax ” was finally maintained by the Secretary of State.

In July, 1934, the Governor appointed a Committee to examine the extent and character of permanent unemployment in the Colony and to report whether any steps were practicable to mitigate the immediate effects thereof and whether any measures could be devised to deal with conditions which tend towards the increase of permanent unemployment.

The number of persons whose registration as unemployed was accepted by the Committee was 3,603. They were grouped into the following categories :—

Unskilled labour	...	...	...	...	...	909
Skilled labour	...	...	...	...	...	1,846
Clerks	...	...	...	...	...	848

Total	...	...	...	...	...	3,603

On the recommendation of the Committee steps were taken to put in hand various works of public utility calculated to give employment to as many persons as possible who were out of work.

A local Defence Force styled “ The Mauritius Territorial Force ” was established during the year by the enactment of Ordinance No. 19 of 1934. The Force is raised and maintained by the Governor and the whole of the expenditure on its maintenance is defrayed by the Revenues of the Colony. It is under the command of the Senior Military Officer Commanding the Regular Forces in the Colony.

The Island was visited in June, 1934, by H.M.S. *Hawkins* flying the flag of Vice-Admiral M. E. Dunbar Nasmith, V.C., C.B., Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, and in July, 1934, by the French war vessel *Bougainville*.

APPENDIX I.

Forty-eight Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1934. Amongst them the following may be noted.

No.	Title.
13	An Ordinance to make provision with respect to the Currency Notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis. (Mauritius Currency Notes.)
19	An Ordinance to provide for the establishment and regulation of a Local Defence Force in Mauritius (Mauritius Territorial Force).
25	An Ordinance to regulate the importation of textiles (Importation of Textiles (Quotas)).
32	An Ordinance to authorize the levy of a poll tax graduated according to the taxpayer's income (Graduated Poll Tax).
39	An Ordinance to provide for the issue and currency of Mauritius silver coins (Coinage).

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

<i>Title.</i>	<i>Agents for Sale.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698-1710.*	Out of print	
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques, 1715-1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maison-neuve, Paris, 1888).	ditto	
Le Patois Creole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	
Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	ditto	
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan*	ditto	
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.)
Financial situation of Mauritius, Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	ditto	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book *	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs.5.84
A School History of Mauritius. By W. H. Ingrams.*	MacMillan & Co., London	2s. 6d.
Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs.10
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius by Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	ditto	Rs.15
Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co. Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs.10
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	ditto	Rs.3
Island of Maurifius. By Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	
Ile de France-Documents pour son Histoire Civile et Militaire. By Saint Elme le Duc.*	Government Printing Office, Mauritius.	Rs.10
Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	Mauritius	Rs.50

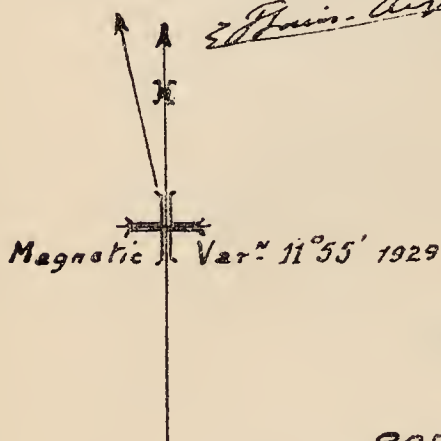
* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Miles

Scale 8 Miles to the Inch

Reduced from the Military Map
By L.T. Louis-Auguste
Surveyor P.W.D.



Lat. thro' Column
on POUCE 20° 11' 42" 25



— DISTRICTS —

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 Port Louis | 6 Savanne |
| 2 Pamplemousses | 7 Black River |
| 3 Riv. du Rempart | 8 P. Wilhems |
| 4 Flacq | 9 Moka |
| 5 Grand Port | |

REFERENCE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Existing Railways & Telegraphs | ————— |
| Railway Stations | ———●——— |
| Other Telegraph lines | ————— |
| Narrow Gauge Light Railway | ————— |
| Main Roads | ————— |
| Light Houses | ⚓ |

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 11d.).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5s. (5s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4s. (4s. 4d.).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3d. (3½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 7d.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933-34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago). [Cmd. 4383.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1s. (1s. 2d.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2s. (2s. 3d.).

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